

1. Project Name:

Buffalo-Skedaddle Landscape Management and Restoration Initiative: Project Coordinator

2. Project Summary:

This grant proposal seeks funding for 'Project Coordinator' position which will be a key element of the Buffalo-Skedaddle Landscape Management and Restoration Initiative (*Initiative*). The coordinator's main role will be to assist in the survey, design and implementation of restoration projects currently identified under the umbrella of the Initiative. While this effort is of importance and high priority to each of the agencies and organizations involved, it is also extremely ambitious and broad in area and scope. We currently lack an individual who can be exclusively dedicated and focused to the Initiative and facilitate its progress. To be successful on a landscape scale we need a point-person to coordinate activities and help keep other team members on track.

This *Initiative* implements a conservation and land management strategy described in several locally developed management plans including the Buffalo-Skedaddle Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy (2005), the Sage Steppe Ecosystem Restoration Strategy (2007), the Resource Management Plans for the Eagle Lake and Alturas BLM Field Offices (2007) and the Lassen County General Plan (2000). Each of these planning efforts represents significant collaboration between state and federal resource agencies, county government, and local stakeholders. Each at a varying scale and context has identified the need and opportunity to improve rangeland watershed health, productivity and habitat value through a proactive approach to management of juniper and sagebrush rangelands.

Currently, ten (10) potential project sites have been identified as priority locations (see map attached). These projects primarily address either, invasion of western juniper into existing sagebrush plant communities, invasion of cheatgrass which chokes out perennial bunch grasses and native forbs, and areas where restoration of sagebrush is needed to improve biodiversity and habitat value. The identified projects have a high likelihood of success of meeting resource objectives, and given the nature of the projects and the land tenure of the area, investment in this *Initiative* will have a positive ecological, economic and cultural impact for a long period of time.

Expected duties of the Project Coordinator include the following:

- Coordinate project design efforts across the Alturas and Eagle Lake BLM Field Offices working with staff biologists, archeologists, and other resource professionals and/or contractors
- Assist and coordinate NEPA and CEQA documentation and processes
- Work with resource professionals and academics to review and develop effective monitoring protocols
- Coordinate restoration efforts on private land according to direction and guidance of the Honey Lake Valley RCD
- When possible assist with grants or community development efforts to expand restoration and resource management opportunities and or funding